

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



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Nebraska's Chief Justice Joins Board of National Court Organization Michael G. Heavican to Serve Four-Year Term

Williamsburg, Va. (Aug. 1, 2011) — Nebraska Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), a nonprofit that aims to improve the administration of justice through leadership and service to the nation's state courts. He will serve a four-year term.

"Since his appointment to Nebraska's highest bench in 2006, Chief Justice Heavican has advocated for a court system that is productive, efficient, and increases access to justice," said Mary C. McQueen, NCSC president. "We are pleased that he is bringing his passion for the judiciary as well as his integrity to the National Center's governing body."

Chief Justice Heavican has served as the head of the Nebraska Supreme Court since his October 2006 appointment by Gov. Dave Heineman. He came to the state court system following 10 years with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska, where he served as acting first assistant U.S. attorney, criminal chief, and acting U.S. attorney. In September 2001, then-President George W. Bush appointed Chief Justice Heavican U.S. attorney for the District of Nebraska, a position he held until he ascended to the bench.

He began his legal career in Nebraska's Lancaster County Attorney's Office, serving first as a deputy from 1975-80 and later as chief deputy. In 1981, Chief Justice Heavican became the Lancaster County attorney, a position he held for 10 years.

In addition to his work on the bench, Chief Justice Heavican is an active member of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), an organization of the top judicial officers from each state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories that promotes the interests and effectiveness of state judicial systems by developing policies and educational programs designed to improve court operations. He currently serves on CCJ's Board of Directors.

Chief Justice Heavican received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska and his juris doctor from the University of Nebraska College of Law.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.

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Downloadable photos of Chief Justice and Supreme

Court: <http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/press/photos/chiefjustice/index.shtml>

Note: This news release also is located [on NCSC's website](#).

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